

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application claims benefit of the foreign application:

Germany 102-35-317.4 with a filing date 08/01/2002. The English-translated version of the certified copy of the foreign document has been filed to the Office, the instant foreign priority has been granted.

2. Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ashley I. Pezzner on May 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 9, after "9. (New)", delete "The catalyst as claimed in claim 5, with the exception of", and insert

--The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein said catalyst is not--

Reasons for Allowance

4. Since the English-translated version of the certified copy of the foreign document Germany 102-35-317.4 has been filed to the Office, therefore Allmendinger et al.

publication, (i.e., Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem., 2003, 629:1347-1352) is not qualified as prior art. The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or 103(a) over Allmendinger et al. has been withdrawn herein.

5. Claims 1-9 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious over the art of record, and therefore are allowable. The closest reference is Drent et al. US 5,310,948, which discloses carbonylation of epoxides. The difference between the instant claims and Drent et al. is that the instant processes have not been found. A suggestion for modification of above reference to obtain the instant processes has not been found. Claims 1-9 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rei-tsang Shiao whose telephone number is (571) 272-0707. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph K. McKane can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/REI-TSANG SHIAO /

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May 14, 2008